

**San Pedro Mental Health Center Engages Community and
Local Agencies Developing
HARBOR AREA RE-ENTRY COLLABORATIVE (HARC)
Maria Salas, MPA**

Many consumers struggle with community reintegration upon release from county jails and prisons. These individuals are typically stigmatized and looked over during the employment process. Without an opportunity for employment their symptoms may become exacerbated causing them to become homeless or to reoffend. San Pedro Mental Health Center has engaged the support of local adult schools, community members, government agencies, law enforcement, non-profit organizations and private companies developing a collaborative known as Harbor Area Re-entry Collaborative (HARC) to help address these barriers to employment.

HARC is currently hosting a series of monthly pre-employment workshops at the local WorkSource center in San Pedro. These workshops are specifically designed to address the needs of the re-entry population with dual diagnosis. HARC is also working towards a Re-entry Job Fair in February of 2015 which has been sanctioned by Supervisor Don Knabe, Congresswoman Janice Hahn, Councilman Joe Buscaino and Mayor Eric Garcetti as well as the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council and the San Pedro and Wilmington Chambers of Commerce.

We recently conducted our third workshop which included radio personality and motivational speaker Josefa Salinas of HOTT 92.3FM Radio and also speakers such as Luis Reyes of DPSS, Ronald Williams of the Shoftim Group, Dwayne Dixon of Chuco's Justice Center and Rose Fernandez of the Harbor WorkSource Center who presented on their valuable resources.



Our next pre-employment workshop will take place on **Tuesday, January 13th, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** We have another fantastic line up of speakers from LA County Probation, LA County DPSS, LA County Public Health, LA County DMH, Friends Outside LA and Harbor Occupational Center Career Tech Programs and Academic Services

confirmed. All attendees also have the opportunity to register with Harbor WorkSource Center to receive free job readiness and case management services such as application and resume review, Bus Tokens, Clothes the Deal, Dress for Success, Free Class A Training, On the Job Training, Ticket To Work and many additional resources to facilitate and support employment needs for individuals experiencing barriers to employment.

If you would like to participate in this wonderful collaborative or if you have clients who may be interested in attending these free workshops, please contact Maria Salas at msalas@dmh.lacounty.gov or at 310 519-6218.